

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 6.16.2020

Rise and Resist Contact Information

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 - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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Notes – Jackie O. **Facilitators** - Alexandra, Jamie, and Elka **ASL Signer** - Elizabeth

The meeting started at 7:05 to give people time to holler and bang pots.

Welcome to new members!

GOOD NEWS / CELEBRATIONS

Alex: **Cuomo signed the police reform bills** discussed at last week's meeting: requiring police to give medical attention to anyone in custody who requests it; the Garner Act prohibiting chokeholds; and repealing 50A so police records of misconduct are now public.

Supreme Court upheld Title VII, a victory for LGBTQ rights prohibiting employers firing anyone for being LGBTQ

In NYS, ICE can no longer make arrests in courthouses (RaR Immigration group worked on this issue)

Mike: **Supreme Court ruled Sanctuary cities protected** from federal punishment

Jenny H: **People's voice continues loud and clear** and across the world. People on the streets everywhere. No matter what happens, this moment can never be taken away.

PEOPLE'S ACTIONS // BANNER ACTIONS

Elka: [shared photos] Sites where "Take Your Knee Off His Neck" banner displayed this week : Public Library - Grand Army Plaza - Washington Sq Park - Columbus Circle - Trump Tower. Also banner and Flag raising at Stonewall Park.

Jamie: A lot of RaR people out this week at BLM demonstrations

REVIEW – LAST WEEK’S MEETING W / NUPOL KIAZOLU (BLM of Greater NY President)

Alex: Activists are opinionated, a strength. But we also jump in w/opinions without taking in what members or guests are saying. As a group, we need to promote stepping back, listening, and holding space -- there’s a lot going on that we don’t know. We got into some trouble last week when Nupol, our guest and a young black woman activist, presented a platform. A few members jumped on her about disbanding police unions. She defended [her proposal, crafted by BLM](#), and was interrupted again. As a majority white group, this is a time to re-think how we operate. Is the thing we have to say the most important? What is the experience of POC in a primarily white space facing disagreement right away? What does it actually mean for RaR to be inclusive?

Jamie: As facilitators, we invite guests to speak. The aim is to have our ears open, take it in, and then reflect. When people come from outside, this is even more important. Discussion?

[silence from the floor]

Elka: We were welcomed to bring our amendments to their Social Justice document. A few members crafted some, and sent it over. This is a forum for collaboration with other groups, and deeper discussion and background work is invited.

Alex: When a difficult moment occurs, we can think about talking about it in the correct space.

COVID-19 & THE PRISONS

Ray: **On Friday, 6/19, 11 a.m., Juneteenth rally in Queens near Rikers**, at Hazen St. and 19th Ave. RaR is working in coalition w/[Just Leadership USA](#) and [Jails Action Coalition](#). Focus on incarceration and immigrant detention. Meet at big sign re: entrance Rikers Island. Chance to use banner for the first time “COVID BEHIND BARS = DEATH”.

Arrive at 10:45 a.m, action at 11 a.m. Even w/3 groups, still less than 20 people and masks and social distancing agreed to. They will encourage speakers to wear masks. Will also be a zoom rally webinar by Just Leadership. Hoping speakers will include someone who is formerly incarcerated, a family member of currently incarcerated ...

Ask: 1) vote to approve action w/additional \$\$ for signs and banner; and 2) (separate vote) is it OK for Councilmember Jumaane Williams to speak at the rally – given our rule to not co-sponsor if there is an election. Williams would only address the issue of decarceration during a pandemic, no campaign component. Wants to use City Council power to step in re: release from prison, since de Blasio not leading on this.

Make signs for action, including:
DEFUND DOC
END PRETRIAL DETENTION
#FreeThemAll

VOTE 1: YES carries on action and \$350 (?? is this correct amount j.o.)

VOTE 2: YES carries on J. Williams as speaker

WEST POINT ACTION

Ken K.: We went to West Point to meet 'n greet trump at his address to graduating cadets. Wonderful day, great group from RaR. We expected 6-60 people, but about 200 folks there -- really strong and loud. Our initial focus was COVID-19, but we pivoted and became part of the focus about BLM, fascism in general, policing. Our 'Trump Lies People Die' banner was supported. Protesters there for 3 hours, we were there for 2 hours. [Elka shows photos of action]. Lots of protesters were local folks in Orange County, a warm feeling of rebellion!

Paul: Police were hands off. We had our spot, everyone cheered. It was fun.

Ken K: One counter-protester driving around. She looked ridiculous. A few cadets were there, and on our side. Tons of horn blows, supportive, and folks took many photographs. There was a story in the NYTimes that quoted some of our posters. Bulk of protesters were loud and right outside the gate, and just inside was the football field w/graduation and trump. Bonespur knew what was going on and it freaked him out.

Jamie: In contrast to NYC when trump is in town and we're protesting -- it's so hard to access. But here cuz he came in by helicopter, the local police decided to leave everything completely open so protesters could get right up to the gate. Free range protest.

Jackie R: Saw coverage (NY1) interviewing cadets and people attending -- all were horrified and disgusted that they had to deal with any of this. They couldn't disobey, but they could not be more unhappy.

POST OFFICE ACTION GROUP

Elka and Robert: Distributed 2000 postcards about 1500 sent out re: save postal service, save vote by mail, secure pension mandate etc. Targeted all 100 senators and 3 relevant House Committees.

Mail absentee ballots as soon as you can! **Send a photo of you mailing your ballot** – we will gather photos for the action report for June 23rd action.

Ongoing sticker action [Elka shows photos] – stickers placed near post boxes and post offices.

[June 23rd - a national mobilization to save the post office](#). Caravans happening in Detroit. RaR video has been shared extensively on the website, [Save Our Postal Service](#). Guest speaker tonight is a retired postal worker and lifetime activist, organizing mobilization.

Updated [RaR post office toolkit](#): -- download posters, stickers, postcards, and more!! Share with friends out-of-state for this national campaign.

Ask: \$100 for more postcards and more posters for new sites

VOTE: YES carries for \$100

Contact Elka or Robert for more info and if you want to join June 23 for actions at 100 Center St., Canal St., or in Brooklyn.

Guest speaker: Dennis O'Neil, retired postal worker and organizer, spearheading national Save the Post Office mobilizations

Dennis: Began w/a petition in rural northern Tennessee, and now it's 120,000 postal workers asking for hazard pay and more. Creating FB groups for postal workers was a tremendous learning experience. Out of the discussion a clear need for, and appreciation of, support from the public. Postal workers not initially mentioned as essential workers. We realized a huge base of support was out there, but our unions were not able to mobilize it (4 different unions represent postal workers). We came up with what RaR came up with: find ways to express popular support for postal workers and the postal service. We set up [the FB page](#) (400 members). People loved the RaR video – 7000 likes, 1300 shares and 50,000 engagements. Your “dynamic arty-ness” has served us well.

June 23rd National Action Day: Organized by retirees, active postal workers, the APWU (most active and leftist postal union). Formal presentation of 2 million petition signatures to Congress. National press conference. Organizing people for demonstrations – about 15 APWU locals might join, and here in NY, NY Metro (union) and other unions also agreed to mobilize. Car caravans. RaR has proved that masked, socially distanced protests can be done. So that's what some are going to do, in front of local post offices.

Ask for June 23: 1) maximum presence at NYC post offices, 2-3 people at each location plus 2-3 more? No advance to post offices, but don't expect problems. Interrelate and work together; 2) Media support -- head of NY Metro would like help w/ main talking points people are free to raise other issues, and help w/other media?

VOTE: YES carries to endorse Save the Post Office action on June 23rd

Elka and Robert will continue as main contacts for [June 23 actions](#), will follow-up re: locations, etc.

FACE MASKS NOW AVAILABLE

Dann: 3-ply “Trump = Death” [face masks now available](#). Get yours soon! Printed out 50. Use social media: take a photo w/mask, send it, RaR will share.

ELECTIONS

Livvie's responses to questions re: absentee ballots or early voting:

- Call Varick St. (or tweet) if u have issue re: incorrect address. Or pick an early voting spot and go early.
- Big sticking point: be sure to turn over envelope and sign and date it (don't make extraneous marks)
- Many videos being made w/ instructions about absentee ballots. Check out 'Let NY Vote Common Cause' video is excellent – many different languages.
- Early morning at early voting sites are deserted, so a good option.
- Even if you applied for an absentee ballot, you can still vote IN PERSON.

Contact Livvie if you are interested in volunteering for Let NY Vote – need a bike or car on election day to observe. Rehearsal for November.

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Ann and Miriam: Supporting [Communities United for Police Reform](#) -- coalition to push City Council to **Defund NYPD by \$1 billion**. Calls to make, contact councilperson and apply pressure to get a veto proof majority on City Council. Action info here: <https://p2a.co/PfAaa9G> and here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/0/d/18pWRSu58DpENABkYUJIZw1ltCPZft7KJc6lFaOZK8-s/htmlview>

Next Tues., [6/23, 5 pm rally that Communitas United](#) is organizing. City budget due by June 30th, so that is the timeline for effecting change.

JUNETEENTH ACTIONS

Alexis: Lesbian Avenger, friend of ACT-UP community, calling for a black-led **Break the Chains with Love Juneteenth March, Friday, June 19, starting in Brooklyn Bridge Park**. 6 pm start time, marshalls welcome at 5 pm. March to City Hall—final destination not exactly known. RaR contingent w/banners out for this? YES, a handful of folks interested. Jennifer has the Blyn banner, and Ann and Jenny H. on 96th and Bway will have the other banner.

The Action Committee will organize props and logistics for this.

Also, there is a **2-5 pm Juneteenth March around City Hall**. If folks have more info about this event—organizers, etc.--let RaR know?

Mary: Working with Movement for Black Lives on Slack. Most events on 6/19 are black-led. Mary in Foley Sq that day, that are black-led. See here for [SixNineteen info](#)

Summary: RaR getting folks out on Juneteenth to:
11 a.m. action w/Just Leadership in Queens/Rikers
6 p.m. march from Brooklyn Bridge Park

Jonathan: Activist reached out to him, Boo Froebel, re: **Juneteenth Jubilee, Blacksmiths and Intersectional Voices collective. 3 p.m.** start time at 110th and Malcom X. Black-led, artist-led, no permit, will end at St. Nicholas Park. LGBTQIA-oriented, celebration of creativity and joy. Marshalls wanted, reach out to Boo at boofroebelprojects@gmail.com

Ann R: **Poor People's Campaign Juneteenth Weekend of Action** – National March on Washington, to mark original mark, planned since July 2019 but reconceived now as national [digital day of action and assembly for June 20](#). Amazing momentum building toward this. Also, NYState Poor People's Campaign organized a [pre-rally and post-event discussion](#). Main event is **Sat. a.m. at 9:30 a.m.** – all events are complementary. Rebooting at 6 pm Sat and Sunday night for folks who miss it.

Ask – to endorse National PPC mass assembly for Juneteenth Call to Action:

VOTE YES carries re: PPC endorsement

RECLAIM PRIDE

The **1pm march** is still planned on Pride Day **June 28** – starting somewhere going somewhere—as we get more information we will let everyone know. Press release by this Thursday.

ISSUE RE NYS DEPT OF LABOR

Patricia: Issue re: NYS Dept of Labor sending letters about how her protest and arrest in July 2018 now the reason for withholding payment from her.

Discussion: Best action plan is to contact the attorney who represented you and see what Ron says.

FINANCE

Susan L.: We have \$12,700, or \$100 less than last week. Still waiting on A.J. Muste money.

NON-RAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandy: Student internship program she is doing w/Claire, Students for Justice, refined this week. In contact with 9 colleges, 5 w/significant POC student body. If you have college-age nieces nephews who might want to get involved? Program focus: fight voter suppression in black belt in south; and motivate youth vote.

Description of program (intern and supervisor roles) [here](#). Currently 55 students bandwidth, want to increase to 100. Maybe 1 hour weekly per student intern, for supervisor. Would be an interesting experience for supervisor, so check out. Email Sandy if interested.

Jenny H.: Friday, June 19, at 96th and Bway at 5 pm on UWS, “Say Their Names” gathering to remember people murdered by police and vigilantes.

RISE AND RESIST